The collections under arrears improved. The balance pending recovery at the end of the year fell from Rs. 77,760 to Rs. 73,334. The value of movable and immovable properties sold in auction declined from ·8 per cent to ·7 per cent of the total collections. The average number of days during which the Division Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, were on circuit, rose from 175 days to 200 days. The officer deputed to inspect the working of the new system of registers and accounts introduced by the Land Revenue Manual, submitted his report, upon which orders were passed by the Government, issuing detailed instructions for remedying the defects brought to light in the inspection. The report showed that, in spite of the imperfections incidental to the working of a new system in its initial stages, the principles of land revenue administration inculcated in the Manual were fairly well grasped and acted upon by the officers concerned. The Tahsildars in charge of the taluks were empowered to exercise the powers of a Division Peishkar under Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation. The Deputy Tahsildars have recently been divested of the duties of ex-officio Head Accountants of Treasuries, so as to enable them to devote better attention to revenue work. With a view to reduce the territorial jurisdiction of the Chengannur taluk, which, with its large area of 925·97 square miles and enormous volume of puduval work, badly stood in need of bifurcation, a new taluk, with its headquarters at Pattanamtitta, was constituted with effect from the beginning of 1095. This has, in effect, brought about a re-adjustment of the territorial jurisdiction of the Tahsildars of Chengannur and Tiruvalla, to the immense advantage of the inhabitants of those taluks. The concessions granted in the matter of the registry of lands along the banks of the Neyyar, Chittar, Killiyar and Karamana rivers, were extended to the holders of lands on either side of the Kuzhittura and Kallada rivers. Orders were issued laying down the procedure to be followed for the rectification of the mistakes discovered in the resurvey of the Nedumangad taluk. In addition to the area in the Vilappil pakuthi of the Neyyattinkara taluk already registered in the names of pulayas, an additional area in the Uzhamalakkal pakuthi, Nedumangad taluk, is proposed to be assigned in their favour, to make up the entire extent of 500 acres promised to them. The old Boundary Regulation, III of 1058, as amended by Regulation II of 1060, was repealed, and a new Regulation, X of 1094, was passed to consolidate and amend the law relating to the survey of lands and the settlement of boundary disputes.

8. Forests.—The work of forest settlement made rapid progress, as the result of the appointment of a Special Forest Settlement Officer, referred to in my address last year. Of the 19 reserves for settlement during 1094, one was cancelled, four were pending final notification under Section 18 of the Forest Regulation, and enquiries were completed in respect of 13 out of the remaining 14, so that the settlement of one reserve alone was pending enquiry with the Forest Settlement Officer at the close of the year. Also, of the 35 grazing blocks for settlement, enquiries remained to be conducted only in respect of one. With a view to enable the Special Forest Settlement Officer to complete his enquiries and submit final reports under Section 14 of the Regulation in respect of the blocks settled by him, Government have sanctioned the continuance of his services till the close of 1095. In regard to natural reproduction, Mr. Raman Menon, the present Conservator of Forests, observes that, in a country like Travancore where climatic conditions are so favourable, more attention may profitably be devoted to assist nature in this direction and that, with adequate interest on the part of the officers of the Department, it is easy for the State to maintain the present standard of excellence and utility in respect of its forests. Government endorse these observations and look up to the Conservator to adopt every means in his power to facilitate natural reproduction. An additional area of 421 acres was newly planted with teak during the year, thus raising the area of teak plantations maintained by the Department to 4,913 acres. Compact blocks of land are being selected in all the Forest Divisions of the State in pursuance of a general scheme to plant an area of about one square mile with teak per annum, continuously during the next ten years.

9. Salt.—An additional area of 107 acres available in the Manakkudi backwater at Tamaracolam was assigned for salt manufacture. The Variyur salt factory

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was closed, as the extension of wet cultivation in its vicinity in consequence of the Kodayar Project rendered it unsuitable for salt culture. The conversion of the lands assigned at Tamaracolam in recent years into factories is proceeding at a rapid pace. The total outturn in the factories rose from 4,81,441 maunds in 1093 to 6,49,388 maunds in 1094, the average yield per acre increasing from 1,356 maunds to 1,857 maunds. Since the close of 1094, a set of rules for the development of local manufacture of salt has been issued under Regulation III of 1088.

10. Abkari, Opium, Ganja and Tobacco.—The construction of the new Sirkar distillery at Nagercoil having been completed, the arrack supply contractor was manufacturing the whole quantity of jaggery-arrack required for his supply area in that distillery, for the major portion of 1094. The number of arrack shops fell from 719 to 677. Though the consumption of arrack in 1094 was higher than in 1093, it has to be remembered that in the pre-war year of 1089, the figure was 6·8 per cent more than the quantity consumed in 1094 and hence there was nothing abnormal in the increase. The incidence of taxation on country spirits per head of population rose by about half an anna, the duty on cocoanut toddy arrack being raised from Bh. Rs. 5 to Bh. Rs. 5-as. 10 per gallon. The number of toddy shops at the end of 1094 was only 1,502, against 1,550 in 1093. The total quantity of foreign liquor imported into the State fell from 12,267 gallons in 1093 to 10,727 gallons in 1094, the quantity in 1089 being as high as 36,621 gallons. Only 33 licenses for wholesale vend and 14 licenses for retail vend of this liquor were issued during the year, against 38 and 16 licenses respectively in 1093. The quantities of opium and ganja issued for sale fell from 5,402 seers and 5,453 seers in 1093 to 5,241 seers and 4,933 seers respectively in 1094. There is ample evidence to show that the introduction of the separate shop system has served to bring the vendors under stricter control. The sale prices of both opium and ganja were raised during 1094. The total sales of tobacco fell from 14,668 candies to 13,581 candies.

11. Customs.—The tariff values of jaggery and the produce of the cocoanut tree have been enhanced since the close of 1094. The abolition of the export duty on firewood and charcoal, experimentally tried from 1087, having been found to result in loss to the Government, damage to the State forests and scarcity of supply to local consumers, a duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem* has been reimposed on firewood and charcoal exported from the State, their tariff values being fixed at Bh. Rs. 14 and Bh. Rs. 28, respectively, per ton.

12. The Excise Department.—With a view to cope with increase of work and ensure greater efficiency, the Excise Department, which controls the revenue under 'Salt', 'Abkari', 'Opium and Ganja', 'Tobacco' and 'Customs', has been recently reorganised at an annual additional cost of Rs. 20,154. The salt factories in South Travancore on whose extension and development Government have been bestowing special attention during recent years, have, as a result of this reorganisation, passed under the control of an Assistant Commissioner, and the new distillery at Nagercoil, which, when properly worked, can be made to turn out all the arrack required for consumption in the country, has been placed under the charge of a full-timed Circle Officer. The grades of Inspectors, Petty Officers and peons in the Department have been suitably revised so as to secure increased scope for promotion. The first volume of the Excise Manual, prepared departmentally, was issued during 1093 and the second volume during 1094.

PROTECTION.

13. Legislative Council.—As you are all aware, the constitution of the Legislative Council, which was created by His Highness the Maha Raja in 1063, has been recently revised by Regulation I of 1095. The maximum strength of the Council has been raised from 15 to 25, and for the time being it has been fixed at 24, 13 of the members being officials and 11 non-officials. 8 out of these 11 seats are thrown open for election, 4 by the general electorate, one by the Jenmies who form an important section of the land-owning class, one by the planting community

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